



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 547

Chairperson: Ron Raikes
Committee: Education
Date of Hearing: February 5, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 547 creates the Nebraska Student Advantage Act. The purpose of the Nebraska Student Advantage Act is to increase equity and student achievement through promotion of diverse and inclusive student populations in school buildings located in school districts within and adjacent to cities of the metropolitan class, recognizing that increased learning opportunities through broader accessibility and inclusion can provide improved student progress and achievement while permitting individual school districts to have distinct yet cooperative identities.

The Nebraska Student Advantage Act creates the Superintendents Executive Board, the membership of which includes the superintendent of each participating school district. The Superintendents Executive Board has responsibility for: developing a marketing plan for inter-district transfers; coordinating professional development; supervising the Student Voluntary Inclusion Plan; and overseeing the selection of the Student Achievement Council.

The Student Voluntary Inclusion Plan created by LB 547 requires that each district determine the capacity of their individual buildings; gives priority to transfer students who contribute to the socio-economic diversity of the district; provides that each district market available seats to participating school districts; and provides transportation funding for transfer students.

LB 547 also creates the Student Achievement Council which will consist of six school board members elected by their peers and the Student Achievement Coordinator, who will be appointed by the Governor. The Student Achievement Council is responsible for resolving disputes pertaining to the marketing plan, professional development, the methodology used to determine building capacity, and for monitoring inter-district student achievement.

LB 547 also requires the Department of Education to adopt a student tracking system; freezes current school district boundaries in the participating area; changes some funding calculations under TEEOSA; and eliminates the Learning Community Council and the reorganization of the Omaha Public School District.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Gail F. Kopplin